



UNITED NATIONS  
**MALAWI**  
DELIVERING RESULTS TOGETHER FOR MALAWI

# Malawi 2018 UNDAF Report

United Nations Development Framework 2018



This production has been coordinated and produced by the Communications Department of the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) in Malawi.

Some of the notable achievements in 2018 include universal national registration for adults, strengthened gender machinery that ensures women are politically and economically included and empowered, transformative economic growth through private sector-oriented initiatives like the Malawi Innovation Challenge Fund (MICF) and the Growth Accelerator and a more diversified and nutrition-sensitive agricultural production - *Maria Jose Torres*  
*UN Resident Coordinator*



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# ACRONYMS

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<b>ARI</b>	Acute Respiratory Infection	<b>MNSSP</b>	Malawi National Social Support Programme
<b>CMAM</b>	Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition	<b>MoGCDSW</b>	Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare
<b>DPT</b>	Diphtheria—Pertussis—Tetanus	<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>EMIS</b>	Education Management Information System	<b>MVAC</b>	Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee
<b>FFA</b>	Food for Asset	<b>NRIS</b>	National Registration and Identification System
<b>FP</b>	Family Planning	<b>PCV</b>	Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine
<b>GEER</b>	Gender and Elections Engagement Room	<b>R4</b>	Rural Resilience Initiative
<b>HPV</b>	Human Papilloma Virus	<b>SAM</b>	Severe Acute Malnutrition
<b>JAWP</b>	Joint Annual Work Plan	<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>LGBTI</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex	<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
<b>LTA</b>	Long-Term Agreement	<b>UNCG</b>	United Nations Communications Group
<b>MAM</b>	Moderate Acute Malnutrition	<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>MD</b>	Maternal Death	<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>MGDS</b>	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy	<b>VSL</b>	Village Savings and Loans
<b>MHRC</b>	Malawi Human Rights Commission	<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>MICF</b>	Malawi Innovation Challenge Fund		

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# FORE WORD

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**Maria Jose Torres**  
UN Resident Coordinator



The implementation of this UNDAF came to an end in 2018. The United Nations, in partnership with the government of Malawi and an array of other partners, worked tirelessly to implement development interventions aimed at accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It was also the year when the formulation of its successor UNDAF 2019-2023 was finalised and jointly signed by the UN and the Malawi government, creating our new chapter of development cooperation in Malawi.

All interventions in 2018 have been guided by the General Assembly's mandate (GA/RES/72/279) to ensure that the UN System is fit for purpose to drive the 2030 Agenda and that has set the basis for a generation of UN Country Teams (UNCTs) that delivers results in a transparent and accountable manner. The UNCT has continued working in partnership with Development Partners and civil society at all levels, but with a particular emphasis on the local and district level development.

I am delighted to share that the results and success stories of 2018 reveal significant progress on achieving the 2030 Agenda in Malawi. Some of these notable achievements include universal national registration for adults, strengthened gender machinery that ensures women are politically and economically included and empowered, transformative economic growth through private sector-oriented initiatives like the Malawi Innovation Challenge Fund (MICF) and

the Growth Accelerator, more resilient communities, a more diversified and nutrition-sensitive agricultural production, and completion of 2018 Population and Housing Census. The gender dimension of the UN's work was pushed to a higher level this year as the UNCT, under the leadership of the government of Malawi, embarked on the design of the new Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls. Likewise, implementing the government of Malawi's Resilience Strategy, the UN embarked on the design of a joint programme that is aimed to move away from the recurrent cycles of humanitarian assistance to embrace a more diversified agriculture and resilient communities. The ambition in all those interventions is to leave no one behind. We are committed to ensure that the development agenda is inclusive and represents a rights-based approach promoting participation of diverse groups in society: persons with albinism, persons living with HIV/AIDS, women, and adolescents.

In 2018, innovation has been at the centre of our development efforts, solving structural issues with new approaches that are time effective and reduce costs. Some examples of innovative approaches pursued under the preceding UNDAF include the first digitalized census enumeration using tablets, increasing male involvement in addressing harmful cultural practices and promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights, bridging the humanitarian-development divide through an integrated approach to provision of food

assistance, covering resilience building and relief support, as well as the use of Farmer Field Schools to promote the adoption of improved farming methods among local farmers.

Building on this progress, our new UNDAF for 2019-2023 is as ambitious as ever. I was proud to sign such a compelling document that is deeply rooted in the SDG agenda together with my fellow Heads of Agencies and the Government of Malawi, represented by the Minister of Finance, in October 2018. The new UNDAF is a five-year agreement aimed at bringing significant positive change in the lives of all the people in Malawi, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. The agreement is fully aligned with the national priorities in the third Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS III), as well as the SDGs. It focuses on three pillars: Peace, Inclusion and Effective Institutions, Population Management and Inclusive Human Development, and Inclusive and Resilient Growth. Through concerted efforts around these pillars, the UN hopes to further accelerate the achievement of the SDGs in the 2030 Agenda in Malawi.

Ultimately, our success is the success of every child, adolescent, woman and man in Malawi whose lives are being improved in a meaningful way by our efforts. We will spare no effort to make this agenda a reality. Therefore, I invite you to go through this annual report and discover some of the results, successes and lessons learnt from 2018.





# KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

## Economic trends

The 2018 development trends flagged several economic challenges for implementing the 2030 Agenda. Several indicators registered that Malawi experienced a slowdown in economic growth in 2018. Annual economic growth for 2018 dwindled to 3.5%, compared to 4.0% in 2017. This sluggish growth is due to low agricultural output in the 2017/18 season because of challenges like fall army worms, dry spells, slow industrial performance, and a generally weak business environment because of an intermittent power supply.

Despite the fact that inflation has been maintained at single digits for most of the year, it reached double digits (10.1%) in November of 2018. Drivers of inflationary pressures include rising maize prices, electricity tariffs and fuel prices. However, carryover stocks from 2017 and the government's food insecurity response programmes prevented a substantial rise in food inflation. The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) indicated that 3.3 million households are projected to be food insecure in the 2018/19 consumption season, compared to 1 million people in the 2017/18 consumption season. Therefore, with support from FAO, WFP and UNICEF, a collaboration on a pilot programme, which combined drones, satellite imagery (partnered with European Space Agency),

ground data collection, and machine learning to produce high-resolution crop type mapping, was accomplished in the Kasungu District. The pilot is a significant stepping stone in enhancing agricultural monitoring to track crop yields, and eventually manage food production and improve nutrition outcomes in Malawi. It also laid the groundwork for improving crop yield estimation, which is critical to ensure food security and address malnutrition in the country.

Parallel to the misallocation of public resources, central government operations reported fiscal deficits throughout the year, except for July and September. The Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) expects fiscal deficits to grow from an estimated 3.7% in 2016/17 to 4.4% of GDP in 2017/18, owing to high government expenditure and revenue collection under performance. The Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development expects fiscal deficits to slow to 3.8% of GDP in 2018/19, citing the continued implementation of measures to create fiscal space for inclusive and sustainable economic growth by the government. Public debt continued to rise throughout the year and stood at MK3.1 trillion (around USD4.3 million) in the third quarter of 2018.

The UN and the EU, under the Development Effectiveness and Accountability Project (DEAP),

technically and financially supported the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development to conduct a Development Finance Assessment (DFA) for Malawi. The DFA aimed at mapping finance flows available to Malawi and exploring how they can be leveraged and aligned to anchor the implementation of the MGDS III. It also assessed the extent to which Malawi is ready to implement an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), as proposed by the third Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa. The assessment found that resources for MGDS III financing are available, but is dependent on an effective institutional leadership, an alignment to national development plans, and an effective public financial management system.

## The implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The UN, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, supported the process of developing the 2018 SDG Progress Report. The report shows the country's commitment to implement, and periodically report on the progress of, the SDGs up to 2030. While some targets have already been met ahead of 2030, the report highlights challenges that are being faced in the course of implementing them and areas in which more action needs to be taken to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. The

draft report finds that Malawi has already met 18 targets and 18 indicators, is likely to meet 19 targets and 33 indicators, and is on track with 59 targets and 80 indicators. In addition, the report is registering slow progress on 81 targets and 66 indicators. The UN conducted an SDG Audit of the National Budget, which is a comprehensive budget review to assess Malawi's national budget alignment to the SDGs since their implementation in 2016. The audit aimed at determining the level of financial support for the implementation of SDGs, which Malawi domesticated in the MDGS III. The analysis revealed significant financing gaps for SDGs implementation. The study outlined how future allocations should be made to ensure successful implementation of the SDGs by 2030.

In addition to the financial gaps, the lack of SDG awareness at the local communities is hindering the SDGs implementation progress. The UN, with support and in collaboration with the government, undertook an SDG localization campaign which aims to foster alignment of SDGs into District Development Plans to enhance a bottom-up approach that will leave no one behind in the SDG implementation.

In line with the United Nations 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census Programme, the UN Country Team (UNCT) collaborated with development partners to support the government of Malawi in conducting the 2018 National Population and Housing Census from the 3rd to the 23rd of September. This was the first digitalized census in Malawian history using tablets for enumeration, allowing efficient data



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



processing and analysis. The census has generated statistics critical for effective development planning and policymaking, as well as for improving governance including transparency and accountability. It has also provided geographical mapping of the country and the master sample frame for data collection during inter-census periods. The data generated during the 2018 Population and Housing Census is central to setting and measuring targets developed as part of the SDGs and MGDS III.

3.5%



Annual economic growth for  
2018 dwindled



Inflation reached double digits  
in November of 2018

3.3 M



Households are projected to be  
food insecure in the 2018/19  
consumption season

4.4%



Estimated fiscal deficits for the  
year 2017/18



MK3.1 Trillion

Public debt



Estimated fiscal deficit



# 2018 COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL ALBINISM AWARENESS DAY

The Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare in collaboration with the Association of Persons with Albinism in Malawi announces the commemoration of International Albinism Awareness Day in Malawi

Date : Saturday, 23rd June 2018

Venue: Mwenilondo Primary School Ground, in Karonga District | Time: 09:00 AM

Theme : "SHINING OUR LIGHT TO THE WORLD"

"KUUNIKIRA DZIKO LAPANSI NDI KUWALA KWATHU"

Everyone is all welcome



# HUMAN RIGHTS

There was a downward trend in reported crimes against persons with albinism in 2018 (11 reported in 2018, compared to 52 in 2017), notwithstanding severe ongoing delays in the criminal justice system. On the 4th of September, the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Malawi issued a statement in which it welcomed the completed investigations on the killing of MacDonald Masambuka, a person with albinism. However, continuing attacks against persons with albinism are still a major concern, as at least 10 persons with albinism remain missing in Malawi. The UNCT called for enhanced protection and support for victims and their families and called on the government to prioritise investigations and prosecutions of crimes against persons with albinism.

Therefore, the UN continued to work on raising awareness about albinism, combined with support for community-based protection mechanisms. This includes training on human rights monitoring, reporting to the Association of Persons with Albinism (APAM), supporting the finalisation and dissemination of a national action plan on albinism, finalising a study on investigated and prosecuted cases, and auditing all albinism complaints reported to the police. On International Albinism Awareness Day, a high-level meeting on albinism convened to take stock of progress in criminal justice to generate renewed commitment

in accelerating the investigation and prosecution of attacks on persons with albinism.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and discrimination remained one of the most widespread violations of human rights in Malawi. Nearly half (47%) of the girls in Malawi marry before reaching 18 years of age. The UN is supporting implementation of the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriages 2018–2023 to guide national efforts. Increasing literacy rates and implementing gender-related laws, including the Gender Equality Act, Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act, and the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act are essential to eliminate harmful cultural norms that perpetuate discriminatory practices against women and girls. The UN has a significant number of ongoing programmes to address violence against women and girls, as well as supporting their empowerment through strengthening sexual and reproductive health information and services. The Joint Programme on Girls Education, for instance, aims to improve access to and quality of education for girls through an inter-sectoral approach, recognizing the myriad of issues that impact access to education for girls. Furthermore, Malawi was selected in 2018 as one of the eight Spotlight Initiative countries in Africa, which focuses on eliminating violence against women and girls. In addition, the Gender Elections Engagement Room (GEER) is a particularly

interesting approach to open up space for women in politics by closely monitoring incidents targeting them.

In 2018, there were concerns about the narrowing of the civic space in Malawi with increasing threats, intimidation and attacks on human rights defenders and journalists. In addition, an emerging pattern of threats and violence against female Members of Parliament and female candidates was also recorded. The UN urged the authorities to ensure that attacks and threats against human rights defenders are thoroughly investigated and that the crucial work carried out by civil society actors is protected, in line with the government's international human rights obligations.

It is also essential in a pre-electoral context that an enabling environment is created for exercising the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association. The government published the NGO (Amendment) Bill on the 9th of November, which was not yet formally tabled and has a stated objective to enhance transparency and accountability of NGOs. The UN engaged with all stakeholders, including line Ministers and Parliamentary Committees to continue advocating for the Bill to meet international standards on freedom of association. The UNCT also established a Prevention Platform aimed at strengthening

analysis and response to emerging trends in the country in the run-up to the 2019 Elections.

A key achievement of Malawi's SDG Agenda was to provide nearly 10 million Malawians with an identity card. Before the National Registration and Identification System (NRIS), Malawi endured a structural development challenge in the absence of an authoritative, comprehensive and accurate system of national identification. This absence undermined most citizens' right to identity, with consequences being multi-sectoral and citizens' access and entitlement to services uncertain. Equally, the absence of a centralized and up-to-date national register led to a fragile capacity for evidence-based planning, beneficiary and service targeting, and accountable administrative systems. To overcome this challenge, UNDP supported a USD55 million multi-donor National Registration and Identification System Project to actualize the right to identity, ensuring that Malawians aged 16 years and older are registered and issued with unique ID Cards.

The main achievements of the NRIS project include registration into the national registry of nearly 10 million Malawians, with over 9 million unique biometric ID smart cards already distributed. Consequently, Malawi is on a steady path to achieve SDG 16—target 9, on legal identity and birth registration, by 2030. Indeed, the government is now engaging ministries, departments, agencies and private sector entities on multiple use of the ID system to enhance capacity in improving service delivery, upgrading governance and social protection, strengthening democracy, increasing



tax base, and improving financial inclusion. Furthermore, for the first time in Malawi, unique biometric national identification cards have been used as a primary source of identification for voter eligibility during the 2019 Tripartite Elections. This has resulted into a more credible voter's roll than in previous elections and has ensured the 'One Person, One Identity, One Vote' system.

“ A key achievement of Malawi's SDG Agenda was to provide nearly 10 million Malawians with an identity card ”

# UN REFORM

## UNDAF 2019-2023

Responding to the Secretary General's report on repositioning the UN system and using the UNDAF as a system-wide response to national priorities—tailored to the national context and accountable for results on the ground—the UN identified eight transformational principles for Malawi which will be mainstreamed throughout the UNDAF: (1) reaching the last mile; (2) changing incentive structures; (3) focusing on implementation; (4) data for development; (5) changing negative social norms; (6) being scalable; (7) Delivering as One at a decentralized level; and (8) supporting integration across ministries and departments at the national and decentralized level.

The Malawi UNDAF 2019-2023 was signed by the UN Resident Coordinator, the Minister of Finance and the Chief Secretary on the 19th of September. The Minister of Finance, Goodall Gondwe, expressed his gratitude to the UN for the assistance and continued efforts in providing support to the government, which has made significant strides in the health, agriculture, education, gender, and development sectors. The UNDAF has three focus areas: Peace, Inclusion and Effective Institutions; Population Management and Inclusive Human Development; and Inclusive and Resilient Growth. The three pillars are aligned with the new Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) III for 2017-2021 and were developed to focus on multi-sectoral

issues and address the root causes behind Malawi's development challenges, as identified in the root cause analysis and integrated SDG modelling.

To ensure transparency and high impact interventions, the UNDAF will be implemented through multi-sectoral Joint Annual Work Plans (JAWPs) per pillar. The JAWPs will provide a transparent overview of the UN's work in the country and allow the UN to focus its resources on high impact interventions.

### Joint Annual Work Plans

With the signing of the UNDAF, the UNCT and the Malawi government committed to the three JAWPs under the three UNDAF pillars in early 2019. The introduction of the JAWPs means that UN agencies will not sign separate work plans with the government, as all of the UN's work is reflected in the JAWPs. This will provide a transparent overview of all the UN's work in the country and facilitate greater coordination. Planning retreats were held with government counterparts in November and December of 2018 to review and approve the JAWPs. Furthermore, the UNCT finalised the Joint Annual Work Plan on youth, uniting eight agencies with the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Manpower Development.

## Delivering as One at District Level

The main objective of Malawi's recently developed UNDAF for 2019-2023 is to work together to ensure that no one is left behind and to reach the most vulnerable people first. In operationalizing this ambitious goal, the UNCT in Malawi agreed to pilot an initiative called "Deliver as One" at the decentralized level. The UN will be working together in the districts in a comprehensive and coordinated manner to have maximum impact on the ground.

Following a rigorous selection, the Nsanje District came out clearly as a district where the UN could proceed with this initiative. Nsanje's poor performance in the UNDAF indicators made it a suitable pilot district for a Joint UN approach under the new UNDAF. Moreover, Nsanje is an important district for two other Joint Programmes the UN is introducing, namely the Joint Resilience Programme and the Spotlight Initiative.

### MoU with Parliament

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was drafted between the UN and Malawi's Parliament to ensure coherent support between the UN and the Parliament. The MoU, signed on the 19th of February 2019, covers cooperation in good governance, legislation, gender, and food security. To operationalize the MoU, a JAWP will be developed between the UN and the Parliament for 2019.





# JOINT PROGRAMMES

## The Spotlight Initiative

After the submission of a proposal early 2018, Malawi was selected as one of the eight countries in Africa to participate in the Spotlight Initiative, a new multi-year programme focused on eliminating violence against women and girls, as well as other harmful practices. Malawi was not only chosen based on its significant challenges in this area but also for its demonstrated achievements in recent years, particularly on ending child marriages.

The Spotlight Initiative Country Programme was agreed to commence at the beginning of 2019, with UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP all participating in the programme. The Spotlight Initiative in Malawi will focus 80% of its resources on prevention, social norms and the provision of services, while interventions on institutions, legislation, data and the women's movement will be supported through smaller, yet highly targeted and impactful, means.

The main aim is to ensure that women in Malawi are living violent-free lives and are empowered to demand their rights. In short, the Spotlight

Initiative—initially introduced and funded by the European Union—is a joint effort between the UN and the EU, and in close collaboration with the Civil Society, to eliminate violence against women and girls in all its forms, with a focus on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), as well as harmful practices in Africa.

## Joint Resilience Programme

The multi-year Joint Resilience Programme was developed by the Malawi government, in collaboration with the UN and an NGO-private sector consortium led by Concern Worldwide, with a contribution of £59 million (around USD75 million) from the UK government and a crisis modifier of £15 million (around USD 19 million). The programme aims at strengthening the resilience of 1.2 million vulnerable people against climatic shocks, such as droughts and floods. Malawi will implement the new Joint Resilience Programme, also known as Promoting Sustainable Partnerships for Empowered Resilience (PROSPER), from early 2019 to 2023.

The programme will support people living in

extreme poverty and hunger in four districts, namely Balaka, Chikwawa, Mangochi and Phalombe. The programme seeks to improve people's ability to adapt to climate change through various interventions, including diversified agricultural production, improved productive assets and enhanced access to weather information. It also aims to increase access to finance and markets, and support an enabling environment for small-scale enterprises and weather-based micro-insurance to improve the livelihoods of marginalised groups, in line with Malawi's National Resilience Strategy.

The Joint Programme on Resilience is the first collective attempt to implement the Pillar on Resilience and Sustainable Growth of the new UNDAF. Delivering as One enables the UN to leverage its comparative advantages and coordinate building more resilience in Malawi, including the utilization of coordinated data systems, as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. The overall impact of the programme will aim to contribute to the reduction in extreme poverty and put an end to the recurrent cycle of hunger and humanitarian assistance in Malawi.

## Data for Development

The UNDAF 2019-2023 outlines Data for Development as one of its transformational principles, setting Malawi on the right path to achieve the SDGs by 2030. In order to facilitate the focus on data, the UN system agreed to put a data strategy in place to accompany the UNDAF. After explorations on how the UN can better support the national data system and entry points for the UN, it was suggested that the UN system, as well as other development partners and NGOs, should focus on the inter-operability of systems, supporting the National Statistical Office and increasing the use of real time data for decision making. The UNCT will continue to work on the data strategy in 2019.



## Resilience Programme

“In 2015 and 2016, we really had rough years. We did not harvest enough food and so we only ate one meal a day. My children were always sick and even had to repeat a school year.” Zioni Cassim is a smallholder farmer and a mother of three small children.

“We had finished the maize from our bad harvest in less than four months. Thankfully, we received maize, beans and oil for a five month period from WFP. But what helped us most is that we participated in community activities that made us learn new things and become stronger.”

With the World Food Programme’s (WFP) support, Zioni and some 643,000 other vulnerable people who received food assistance during the humanitarian response have now been transitioned to WFP’s multi-year resilience programme with the aim of enabling them to withstand against future shocks while improving their adaptation capacities.



# HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

## Malawi Food Security Forecast 2018/2019

Through the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC), the UN supported the government of Malawi with finances and technical expertise to carry out the 2018/2019 Integrated Phase Classification assessment. The report projected a total of 3,306,405 people in 27 districts falling in IPC phase 3 or worse, and therefore requiring humanitarian assistance for two to six months. This followed from prolonged dry spells, heavy flooding and fall army worm infestations, which affected parts of the country. The needs for the food-insecure population were pegged at 138,488 metric tons (mt) of maize, 25,181mt of pulses, 4,632mt of vegetable oil, 7,013mt of super cereal and 4,674mt of super cereal plus.

## Lean Season Food Insecurity Response Programme Update

The Government led the Lean Season response with the distribution of about 138,000 mt of maize from the National Strategic Reserve. The UN supported the implementation of the Lean Season Food Insecurity Response Programme and mobilized a total of USD 21,690,042.60 to support the eleven most affected districts, namely Balaka, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Machinga, Nsanje, Phalombe, Mangochi, Neno, Zomba, Salima and Chiradzulu with a cash-based food basket top-up for approximately 1.7

million people; provision of treatment to 36,605 people with Moderately Acute Malnutrition (MAM); provision of treatment to 35,000 under-5 children and 7,925 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM); access to a safe and improved water supply for 495,960 people, including 262,858 children; and provision of protection services to vulnerable populations. The top-up was designed to enable people to achieve a full basket by procuring pulses, vegetable oil and corn-soya-blend. According to the Post Distribution Monitoring Report (PDM), the proportion of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries falling under the poor food consumption score was reduced from 15% to 8%. Additionally, food assistance significantly contributed to the stable food security status of refugees in Malawi. Approximately 37,973 people in the refugee camps of Luwani and Dzaleka were supported with monthly food assistance in 2018.

The UN also supported the government with technical expertise in the areas of targeting, coordination, monitoring, reporting, and accountability to provide affected populations with logistical technical support. Specifically, 575 government officers from 23 district councils were trained in revised Joint Emergency Food Assistance Programme (JEFAP) Guidelines; a commodity tracking tool was discussed and launched and technical support on outcome monitoring (Baseline, PDM, End line and After-Action Review), focusing on

study design, data collection analysis and reporting, has been provided to the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA).

## Coordination Support

The UN provided coordination support on various humanitarian issues. Humanitarian Country Team meetings were held monthly and whenever the need arose. Through these meetings, critical humanitarian problems were discussed and resources were mobilized from donors to address problems. Key examples among these problems include cholera outbreaks, Foot and Mouth Outbreaks, fall army worm infestations, heavy floods, and dry spells. Inter-cluster coordination meetings were also held regularly to discuss technical aspects and develop strategies to address humanitarian problems.

## Flood Inter-Agency Assessments

Malawi was hit by a series of flooding incidences in 2018. The UN joined forces with the government and NGOs in order to conduct inter-agency flood assessments in the Phalombe, Balaka and Chikwawa districts and mobilize support for the affected population. A total of 6,136 households (approximately 31,000 people), affected by the floods, were assisted with food and non-food items to put them on a recovery trajectory.

## Summary of Nutrition Status for 2018

This year, there was an improved nutrition situation in the country as shown by the February 2018 Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) Methodology survey, conducted in 7 livelihood zones covering 25 districts that were hit the worst by erratic weather conditions with estimated prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) at 1.3% and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) at 0.1%, which is lower than the May 2017 SMART of 2.1% SAM. With UN support, a total of 28 out of 29 districts are able to better monitor and track nutrition indicators across the sectors through the development of 28 evidence-based district quarterly action plans. Capacity of 118 district officials from 28 districts to use the National Multi-Sector Nutrition Information System (NNIS) was enhanced, increasing the reporting rate from 21% in 2017 to 57% in 2018.

In 2018, reporting remained at 100 percent, as all of the 619 Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) centres, 104 Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRU) and 611 Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP) centres in Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) reported as expected. A total of 45,085 children, aged 6 to 59 months, with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) received lifesaving treatment in OTP centres and NRUs; 88,465 children, aged 6 to 59 months, with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) were treated in the SFP centres; and 36,030 Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) with MAM received supplementary food at the SFP centres. There was a 5% decrease in SAM admissions and a 16% decrease in MAM admissions in 2018, compared to 2017. Additionally, the SAM death rate remained stagnant but within Sphere Standards at 2.2%.





**3,306,405 people**

In **27** districts fell in IPC phase 3 or worse, and therefore required humanitarian assistance for two to six months



**21,690,426**

UN support for the implementation of the Lean Season Food Insecurity Response Programme to support eight districts



**247,236**

Households were provided with a cash-based food basket top-up

**8%**

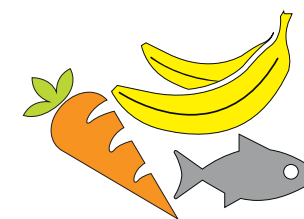


The proportion of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries falling under the poor food consumption score reduction of the proportion from **15%**



**575**

Government officers from **23** district councils were trained in revised Joint Emergency Food Assistance Programme (JEFAP) Guidelines



**6,136**

Households affected by the floods, were assisted with food and non-food items to put them on a recovery trajectory



# CLUSTER ONE: ECONOMIC GROWTH AND FOOD SECURITY

1. Ensuring the most vulnerable groups are resilient, i.e. capable of meeting their basic needs and withstanding environmental shocks such as drought, floods, crop pests, animal disease, climate change, as well as economic shifts.
2. Supporting the government of Malawi in providing an appropriate policy and regulatory framework, as well as improving data and information on effective environment and natural resources, climate change and disaster risk management.
3. Integrating smallholder farmers in supply chains and lifting progressive farmers into commercial agriculture for both the domestic and export markets.

In 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MOAIWD) was supported in harmonizing agriculture sector indicators. The capacity of the MOAIWD was strengthened through the development and launch of the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP).

The UN also continued to support the Malawi Innovation Challenge Fund (MICF). Their collaboration with the private sector has led to notable poverty reduction. So far, the total number of people that experienced a positive income or livelihood improvement because of MICF's efforts has amounted to 252,356, of which 32% are women.

Women doubled their access to agricultural extension services from 20% to around 40% in 2018. This results from the five gender mainstreaming trainings that the UN provided to 219 extension officers in three districts.

The National Action Plan on the elimination of Child Labour was developed this year. The UN supported the mainstreaming of child labour subjects into the curricula of three faculties of the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR).

The UN and partners supported the strengthening of government capacity in social protection programming, notably with the finalisation and launch of the new Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP) II, which will run between 2019-2023.

The Rural Resilience Initiative (R4) provides smallholder farmers with risk management strategies, such as access to weather-index insurance, Village Savings and Loans (VSLs), and microcredit. In 2018, R4 expanded its reach to three additional districts—bringing the total number of districts to six—and is now working with approximately 39,500 farmers. 36,969 households accessed insurance, which protected their assets from recurring dry spells, by participating in different asset creation activities during the year. Furthermore, the UN established 262 VSL groups, and supported 846 VSL groups in six of its resilience districts. The VSL groups saved over USD 500,000 during the year and supported members by buying farm inputs, paying school fees for their children, and addressing household needs. A total of 22,000 beneficiaries participated in the saving activities, including 17,054 women.

Food for Asset (FFA) interventions managed to reach 170,000 households in 10 districts, focusing on natural resource management. About 19,800 hectares of land were rehabilitated through swale construction, gully reclamation, and deep trench construction. FFA participants also learned techniques included composting organic waste, raising seedlings, and maintaining vegetable gardens.

Through policy reviews, the UN supported studies and community-level interventions on poverty alleviation,

climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk management, and access to energy services. The evidence from the studies and the application of the poverty-environment mainstreaming tools led to four key sector policies (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and climate), two district development plans, and 17 district socio-economic plans being influenced to better include poverty-environment related objectives.

Building on 2017 support to develop Malawi's National Resilience Strategy with a contribution of £59 million (around USD 75 million) from the UK Department of International Development (DFID), the UN co-designed the first Joint UN programme on resilience which is set for implementation from 2019 to 2023. Moreover, the UN supported the development of a disaster risk management policy, leading to a reduction in the average response time to a disaster from 14 days (in 2012) to 3 days (in 2018).

Promoting green energy, the UN financed three social enterprises that operate clean mini-grids in remote areas. This project facilitated access to a new electricity supply, reaching over 2,100 households, 5 schools, 3 health facilities, and 15 businesses. In partnership with the government, the UN formulated Malawi's Power for Health Master plan, which guides the sustainable scale-up of renewable energy in the health sector as well.





Food assistance to **416,863** beneficiaries in seven districts and to **37,973** refugees in Dzaleka and Luwani camps



**23,432** farmers reached by **269** field days



Food for Asset (FFA) reached **170,000** households in 10 districts



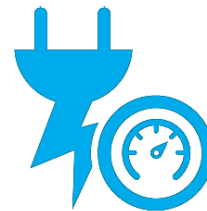
**262** Village Savings & Loans (VSL) groups established



Cash-based transfers to **416,863** beneficiaries in seven districts



The Rural Resilience Initiative (R4) reached **39,500** farmers in six districts



Access to over **375 kW** of new electricity supply



Reduction in the average number of days taken to respond to a disaster from **14** to **3** (2012 vs. 2018)

## Challenges for Cluster One

- Despite the pivotal role which Area Stakeholder Panels (ASPs) play in facilitating the consolidation of farmers' demands, most ASPs have limited functionality due to scarcity of financial resources at district councils. This limits their ability to build their capacities to execute duties diligently in agricultural development.
- The high poverty levels are attributed to several factors, including volatile economic growth, poor performance of the agricultural sector, high population growth, limited opportunities in non-farming activities, persistent corruption, pervasive inequalities, and inadequate safety nets, which compromised inclusive access to social service delivery within a context of high economic insecurity.
- There is a need for a proper mechanism to integrate indigenous knowledge and scientific knowledge. The climate services programme has performed well in areas where it has been integrated with other resilience programmes, such as FFA and R4. This has to be encouraged and sustained in the coming years.

## 2019 Emerging Priorities

- The key opportunity in 2019 will be the continued implementation of the NRS and MNSSP II. The UN should strengthen its positioning as the driving force behind the government's framework implementation and support on social protection, ensuring a coherent implementation on the basis of a strong internal UN coordination mechanism. UN agencies and partners are already working towards a vision of 3SP (Shock-Sensitive Social Protection) in Malawi in order to anchor learnings to date and to inform additional evidence required to transition towards a 3SP approach.
- The UN will continue to support the scaling up of the government's Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) linkage and referral programme-cash plus, a component that links SCTP beneficiaries to other service providers. Donors' interest to continue financing multi-year and integrated resilience projects and local buy-in of the programme provides an opportunity for sustainability and advancement of the UN's integrated approach towards building resilience.
- There is a push for sustainability in mainstreaming Climate Services activities into national and district level plans and budgets. More discussions will be required at national and district level to ensure that there is a concrete strategy in place.
- Creating synergies with other projects implementing similar interventions is key in unlocking bigger impact and leveraging resource utilization. For instance, the ongoing related interventions to climate change adaptation implemented in the Zomba and Neno districts by other development partners are fostering synergies and complementarities to the climate change adaptation intervention.







### Small-scale dairy farming

Thirty-six-year-old Beauty Payipi from Chiradzulu District, in the Southern Region of Malawi, stands outside her Kraal, proudly showing off her three dairy cows. The Kraal is simple and has been constructed using locally-sourced materials: tree trunks, split reeds and mud. Beauty's excitement for what she has achieved is personified in the movement of her hands as she narrates her story.

Beauty started her dairy farming activities in April 2016, when she was given one high-yielding dairy cow from Dairy Board Malawi Limited. It may not seem like much of an investment but coming from a region that has one of the highest poverty rates in Malawi, with high food insecurity and a scarcity of paid work, dairy farming has improved the lives of people like Beauty.

Beauty now employs a helper to look after the cattle. Her ambitious and driven nature is quite evident from her future plans. She is dreaming big. With savings from the milk production, she would like to build a stronger, bigger and more modern shed for her cows. She also plans to increase the number of cows and diversify her business into other sectors.



## CLUSTER TWO: SOCIAL AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Supporting national efforts to ensure that all Malawians, especially the most disadvantaged and vulnerable households, gain access to decent health care, good nutrition, clean water, improved sanitation, quality education and protection from violence and abuse.

In 2018, improving health services in Malawi was of paramount importance for the UN. The National Health Policy was reviewed through the consultation of wider stakeholders and, with technical support from UN, strategic interventions were adopted in the District Health Performance Improvement Plan in 16 districts.

This year, the UN focused on maternal health services in Malawi. As the number of Maternal Deaths (MDs) has not stabilized yet, the high quality of the Maternal Death Surveillance Review is essential, as is timely action on recommendations of every maternal death audit. However, Malawi has reached the MDG4 target of reducing mortality of children under 5 by more than two-thirds and a significant improvement in the reduction of obstetric deaths was achieved. In the five targeted districts by UN, 93% of deliveries was attended by a skilled birth attendant. In addition, 26 Master Trainers, 320 Health Workers and 500 Health Surveillance Assistants were trained. Due to modern Family Planning (FP) methods and the distribution of male and female condoms, injectables, oral pill cycles, and implants, there was an 8 percent increase of total Couple Years Protection (CYP). In response to reports of women aged 15 to 49 years who experienced obstetric fistula, 152 women with obstetric fistula underwent surgical

repairs with UN support, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population.

Tackling vaccine-preventable diseases was another focal point for the UN this year. The geographical equity gap for immunization coverage was reduced, as 24 districts had more than 80% coverage of the DPT vaccine in 2018. Furthermore, Penta1, Penta3 and the newly formulated PCV coverages have reached percentages of respectively 96%, 92% and 96%. Additionally, 86% and 71% of children were protected with respectively the first and second dose of the measles rubella vaccine. In view of the upcoming HPV vaccine against cervical cancer, UNFPA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and district hospitals, has focused on promoting awareness among adolescent women. Approximately 80,000 women were screened for cervical cancer in 2018, compared to 50,000 in 2017. Malawi is also piloting the integration of Vitamin A supplements and deworming tablets into the routine Expanded Programme of immunization services in 5 districts.

This year, a total of 67% of the population of Malawi had access to safe water and 42% used improved sanitation facilities. The finalization of the National Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy, supported both technically and financially by UN, improved sanitary

conditions drastically. In addition, UN supported Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions at schools and provided separate gender-assigned sanitation blocks, including menstrual hygiene facilities for girls.

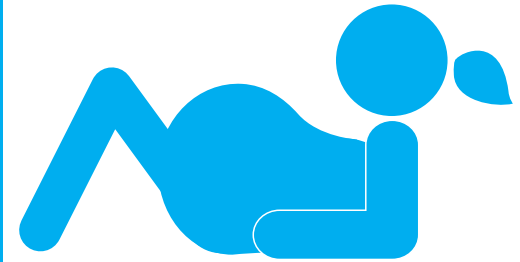
The UN supported improved access to, and uptake of, maternal and infant young child nutrition services among caregivers in 15 targeted districts through social behavior change communication and community engagement. This is substantiated by the preliminary results from a sub-national survey indicating an upward trend in the rate of exclusive breastfeeding to 81 per cent from 67 per cent. Likewise, the provision of the Minimum Acceptable Diet increased from 10.5 per cent in 2017 to 14.4 per cent in 2018, which is also higher than the national average, which is at 8 per cent. A total of 322,199 caregivers of children under two years of age received counselling on key child feeding and caring practices and 6,340 frontline workers (FLWs) in 15 target districts improved their knowledge and skills in optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding; food fortification; integrated homestead farming; WASH; health; and monitoring and reporting.

With recent improvements in food security in



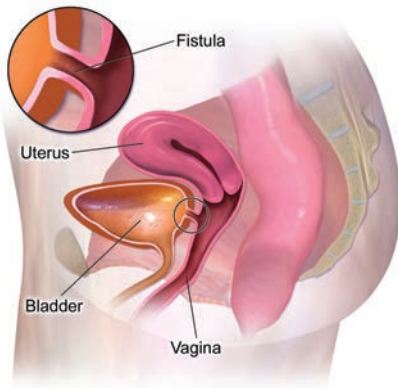
→ **8** percent increase of total couple year protection from **1,451,791** in 2017 to **1, 573,308** in 2018.

Immunization coverage was reduced as **24** districts (**83%**) had more than 80% coverage of DTP vaccine in 2018 compared to **22** districts (**75%**) in 2017



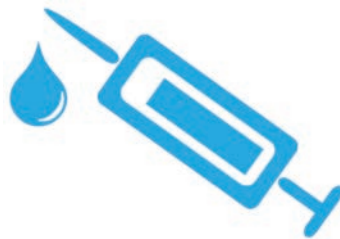
**93** percent of the deliveries were attended by skilled birth attendant in five UN supported - districts

**14,665** women received first visit of antenatal care (ANC) by September 2018 compared to 12,498 women in January 2018



Vesicovaginal Fistula

**152** women with obstetric fistula were repaired.



At national level, **86%** and **71%** children were protected with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of measles rubella vaccines respectively in 2018 compared to **82%** and **67%** respectively in 2017



A total of **67%** of the population of Malawi had access to safe water, **42%** used improved sanitation facilities and services, while **11%** adopted handwashing with soap



About **80,000** (up from **50,000** in 2017) women were screened for cervical cancer



**97,455** children with diarrhea received treatment



**856,687** children were treated for malaria





Malawi, the number of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) has dropped significantly. The recovery rate of children who received treatment for SAM through the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programme was 93% and the recovery rate for children and adults recovering from MAM was at 90% in 2018. The general availability of health services for children has also improved both at facility and community level. In the target districts, children were treated for ARI, malaria and diarrhoeal diseases.

The National School Health and Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan was launched together with the general Nutrition Policy. More than a million Primary School students from over 900 pre-schools and primary school received daily hot breakfasts with UN support, contributing to 45% of learners nationwide.

Approximately 21,000 adolescent learners from standards 5–8 in target schools were reached by regular comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information through quality health sessions and school radio programs. A further 30,334 out-of-school adolescent children were reached with SRHR information through youth comprehensive sexuality education CSE lead facilitators, youth-friendly health centres, and other outreach engagement strategies. Multi-sectoral responses to violence against children and GBV were strengthened through the Safe Schools component of the Joint Programme on Girls' Education, in which over 17,000 learners were empowered to participate in their own protection and teachers and communities were mobilised to protect children. Overall, the Joint Programme on Girls Education aims to improve access to and quality of education

for girls by addressing the myriad of issues that affect girls' access to education and their chances of completing it.

The UN supported improved community-based service delivery by Police and Community Victim Support Units (VSUs) which assist victims of violence through provision of counselling, mediation and referral to appropriate services such as hospitals, social welfare and justice services. In addition, over 300,000 children accessed Psychosocial Support Services from child-friendly spaces, called "Children's Corners", across the country.

Besides health and protection services, both in communities and schools, the UN substantially invested in education in 2018. This was shown through supporting the roll-out of a revised Initial Primary Teacher Education curriculum and Continuous Professional Development programme, as well as the strengthening of school supervision and inspection towards schools attaining the minimum National Education. In order to reinforce the reliability of education information, the UN supported the development of the web-based Education Management Information System (EMIS) and the training of national administrators.

Reports from the EMIS stated that the Education Sector has experienced tangible progress in Malawi and that 51% of girls completed primary education, representing a 4% increase. In 2018, the revised Learner Readmission Policy for Primary and Secondary schools was finalised and approved by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Under the UN Joint Programme on Girls Education, the Functional Literacy programme equipped



5,617 vulnerable adolescent girls with basic literacy and numeracy skills in 3 districts. A further 22,426 students out-of-school adolescents were re-enrolled with Complementary Basic Education (CBE).

To enhance enrollment and transition from primary schools to secondary schools, the UN started construction on five Community Day Secondary Schools (CDSSs) which, upon completion, will provide opportunities to at least 1,000 students. Enrollment in the primary school of Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Malawi was at 50.3%. Psycho-social counselling was provided to children who needed further support.



## Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- Competing priorities and inadequate funding has been a major challenge this year. In addition, there is still a high unmet need for FP and SRHR among adolescent girls.
- Despite the successful reduction of under-five mortality in Malawi, the challenge of reducing newborn mortality and maternal deaths remains.
- Even though the coverage of the Pentavalent vaccination was at more than 90%, the challenge of how the same community platform can be used to reach children at a community level with a package of essential health care continues.
- Socio-cultural norms and beliefs that cause a negative perspective on vaccinations are still partly obstructing immunization services.
- The socio-cultural practices and beliefs which promote negative nutrition behaviours and practices in maternal, infant and young child nutrition still remain a challenge.
- Over-crowded classrooms, low learning achievements, a lack of qualified teachers and poor resource allocation continue to be challenges in our fight for qualitative education. Refugee camps are further suffering from a high staff turnover and increasing reports of child abuse by teachers.
- Delivery of comprehensive SRHR information in schools, either through the Life Skills subject or through dedicated school health SRHR sessions, is sometimes misunderstood by parents and communities as culturally insensitive.

## 2019 Emerging Priorities

- The revision of the National Strategy for Teacher Education and Development (2007-2017) will evidently lead to the development of a new strategy (2019-2029) and will also inform the wider investment partners in the sector through the National Education Sector Investment Plan (2020-2030).
- The Ministry of Education has plans to revise the current Life Skills curriculum for primary education. This will give the UN the opportunity to advocate for the integration of comprehensive SRHR lessons.
- Increased investment and harmonization of resources invested in the Education Sector through the finalization and launch of the Common Funding Mechanism is expected to improve policy planning and coordination between the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST) and its partners for the implementation of the National Education Sector Plan (NESP) II in 2019.
- One key emerging priority will be to improve quality of care for maternal, newborn and child health to further reduce morbidity and mortality. This will be done strategically under the Quality of Care approach with a special focus on adolescent health. In addition, the UN will be addressing GBV and HIV/AIDS with an integrated approach through, for instance, the 2gether4SRHR Programme.
- With extreme weather effects and the probability of consequent cholera outbreaks, as occurred in 2018 after the floods, preparations are underway to develop an updated cholera response plan.
- Advocating for improved domestic resource allocation for nutrition programming and inclusion of specific budget line for nutrition in the district councils.
- Multi-sectoral coordination of children's issues and programmes across ministries, departments and agencies following the passing of the Bill to establish a National Children's Commission.





### Saving baby Laima from malnutrition

For Manesi Fanuwelo, 33, from Nkhwazi village in Chikwawa, the thought of losing another child to malnutrition was unbearable. In 2007, Fanuwelo lost a son to the condition when he was only three years old. And now, her 10-month-old daughter, Laima, was showing the same symptoms that killed her brother.

“Laima had severe diarrhoea,” says Fanuwelo. “Every day, she was losing weight. I felt helpless every time I looked at her tiny body and protruding stomach.”

In Malawi, malnutrition is a major problem, especially among children under the age of five. According to the Ministry of Health, 37% of the under-fives suffer from chronic malnutrition. UNICEF is supporting a small army of Health Surveillance Assistants (HSA) who are conducting nutrition screenings in local communities to identify and refer children at risk of malnutrition for treatment. It was during one such screening an HSA identified Laima and referred her to a District Hospital. She was admitted into the nutrition rehabilitation unit, where she was given therapeutic milk and treated for diarrhoea. Laima was discharged from the hospital a week later. With further special care, she has since improved greatly.

## School infrastructure improves education

At 12 years old, Innocent Katiya might seem a little young to be an engineer. But the years he has spent at Nankhali Primary School in Lilongwe have given him all the qualifications he needs to help design the school's new classroom block.

Now in his last year of primary school, Innocent has taken part in workshops where teachers, students and community members gave their input in the design and layout of the new building.

"The designs were great, but we advised the engineers to add more toilet blocks because the four that they had originally planned were not going to be enough. We also asked them to change the location of one of the classrooms. We asked them to bring it closer to the existing classroom block," says Innocent.

As part of the building project, the school received new classrooms, a library, toilets, teacher offices and teacher housing. The project was made possible with the support of the UN and the famous German footballer, Mats Hummels.







## CLUSTER THREE: HIV/AIDS

Providing unified support and leverage to scale up the national response to HIV and AIDS in order to achieve universal access to prevention, treatment, care, and support.

Financing and managing the HIV and AIDS national response remains a critical area in Malawi. In 2018, the country continued to increase the proportion of the national budget going to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care from 3% in 2011 to 14% in 2018. The UN also supported Malawi to benefit from the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

The UN also contributed towards improving the policy and legal environment for the national response to HIV/AIDS, including support for the implementation of the HIV/AIDS Act and the completion of the national guidelines for the elimination of HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination.

To improve inclusion of key populations—such as sex workers—in the national response to HIV/AIDS, UN support contributed to the Malawi government's acceptance to register five key population organisations. These key populations also included the LGBTI community, despite LGBTI issues being outlawed in the country.

UN support helped towards the continued reduction of HIV infections, resulting in a 26%

decline in annual new HIV infections from 46,000 in 2013 to 34,000 in 2018. In addition, Malawi realised significant progress towards the achievement of the 90-90-90 targets on HIV testing, treatment and viral load suppression. Quarterly Q3 reports in 2018 showed that 94% of people living with HIV knew their status, 80% of people living with HIV were getting treatment and 89% of those on treatment are managing to suppress their viral load.

This significant reduction in HIV infections can partly be explained by improved condom availability and use. The UN procured 32.4 million male condoms for the Ministry of Health and Population to distribute across Malawi. These efforts resulted in the more than six-fold increase of total condom use in five tertiary institutions from 4,000 in 2017 to 25,000 in 2018. The UN further supported the government to finalise and launch the Malawi National Condom Strategy which clearly outlines the distribution systems.

Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights services (SRHR) at the community level also increased with UN support for the Family Planning Association of Malawi. They reached about 60% of adolescents, aged 10 to 19, with information and

services in Dedza, Machinga, Mangochi, Mzimba and Salima, greatly exceeding the target of 30%.

The UN's Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS services also targeted adolescent girls, including those affected by emergencies, such as in Nsanje and Chikwawa. More adolescents living with HIV had access to comprehensive clinical, psychosocial, and sexual reproductive health services. This was done through UN partners like Baylor College of Medicine, who opened five teen clubs that enrolled an additional 236 adolescents living with HIV, reaching them with age-appropriate information.

As malnutrition can complicate the effectiveness of HIV treatment, UN support ensured that children continue to benefit from integrated HIV-nutrition services. In 2018, 29,159 out of 35,074 children admitted for SAM were referred to HIV testing, representing 83% of children. This action strengthened referrals and linkages between HIV and nutrition service provision. In addition, the UN provided nutritional assistance to almost 326,000 children, pregnant and lactating women (PLW), and adult MAM patients on HIV/TB treatment

14 percent of the proportion of the national budget to HIV/AIDS prevention up from 3 percent in 2011



26% decline in annual new HIV infections from 46,000 in 2013 down to 34,000 in 2018



Total condom use in five tertiary institutions increased from 4,000 in 2017 to 25,000 in 2018

## Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- Interventions to improve sustainable HIV financing have not progressed due to an unfriendly policy environment. The UN is working towards resuscitating the efforts after the May 2019 elections in coordination with the National AIDS Commission and the UN.
- Harmful cultural practices continue to prevent adolescents from realising their SRHR and subsequently accessing services. In some cases, measures to reduce school-dropouts, child marriages and early pregnancies were stalled largely due to resistance on abandoning cultural practices.
- Prompt testing of malnourished children for HIV and initiating their treatment to reduce HIV progression remains a challenge, resulting in a HIV-prevalence rate of children with SAM at 10.4%, which is higher than the national average of 8.8%.
- Although 60% of adolescents in target districts reported accessing SRHR information and services, the distribution of condoms to adolescents has continued to be a challenge. This is being addressed through increasing adolescents' knowledge of their rights and improving the supply of condoms.

## 2019 Emerging Priorities

- Baylor's Teen Club programme is an important modality for promoting the Life Skills education approach and ensuring adolescents have equitable access to HIV services. Therefore, improving linkages between Teen Clubs and schools via continued teacher and prefect trainings will be key.
- Continuing to strengthen the linkages between HIV and nutrition service provision will help to ensure pregnant and breastfeeding women, as well as young children, have greater access to a wide range of services.
- The UN will support the Ministry of Education in the advocacy and implementation of the revised Learner Readmission Policy for teachers. Teacher training still remains a priority as they need to be oriented on the new Life Skills education.
- The implementation of HIV and AIDS Management and Prevention Act will need UN support to make sure regulations are developed and key stakeholders are capacitated to utilize the Act in their work. Public awareness of the Act also needs to be ensured and keep mother's alive and on treatments, mirrors that of 2030 Agenda for future development.



## New HIV initiative launched

Malawi has launched the Free to Shine initiative to fight HIV and AIDS through increased reduction of mother-to-child HIV transmission.

Malawi's First Lady Prof. Gertrude Mutharika launched the initiative in Lilongwe on 31 October 2018, saying the initiative will help reduce Malawi's mother-to-child HIV transmissions to less than four percent before the end of 2019.

"We have a collective responsibility to make sure that our girls and boys shine by giving them an HIV-free life," said Mutharika. "Our children must shine through provision of paediatric AIDS treatment, care and support." United Nations Resident Coordinator, Maria Jose Torres, said the initiative alligns with the SDGs as its vision of ending childhood AIDS in Africa by 2030 mirrors that of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



## CLUSTER FOUR: GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Promoting the development of capacity of national institutions in order to improve transparency, accountability, participatory democracy, sustainable economic growth, human rights, and the achievement of the SDGs.

The 2018 Population and Housing Census (PHC) was the largest one ever to be undertaken in Malawi requiring the mobilization of over 23,000 staff, strengthened partnerships and the adoption of new technology. This resulted in the collection of reliable national data on population dynamics and the release of census results. The decision to move from the Pen and Paper Interviews system to the Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) approach enabled real time data entry and near real time data transmission from the field to the central server at the National Statistical Office. The UN, in collaboration with the National Statistical Office (NSO) and the government of Malawi, conducted a nationwide publicity campaign to promote participation. Final results of the tabulation, which started in December, were expected to be ready by April 2019. A total of 21 thematic reports will be prepared, ensuring a rich data set for Malawi to facilitate better programming and aim towards the achievement of the SDGs.

The NSO's preliminary results of the 2018 PHC, announced in January 2019, indicated that Malawi's population has risen by 35% in 10 years, from 13,029,498 in 2008 to 17,563,749 in 2018. This implies that the growth rate between censuses

has risen to 2.9% for the period of 2008-2018, compared to 2.8% for 1998-2008. Furthermore, there is a rapid increase in the population density from 138 people per square kilometre in the 2008 census to 186 people per square kilometre in the 2018 census. In addition, the female and male population constitutes 51% and 49% respectively. The results also show that Malawi has an extremely young population with 8,894,534 people below the age of 18, representing 51% of the total population. The Southern Region is the most populated area of Malawi, closely seconded by the Central Region, leaving the Northern Region as the least populated. Finally, the results show that about 84% of the population live in rural areas and only 16% reside in urban areas.

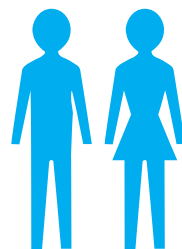
To address low SDG awareness at community level, the UN collaborated with the government of Malawi to implement SDG localization campaigns to align SDGs with District Development Plans and enhance awareness at the local level. Additionally, an SDG Audit of the National Budget was supported by the UN. The audit showed a misalignment with the MGD III priorities and significant resource allocation gaps to finance the 2030 Agenda.

As the majority of the adult population is now registered in the National Civil Registry, Malawi is on a steady path to achieving SDG 16—target 9. The UN has supported continuous registration for both the National Registration Bureau and the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC), conducting voter and civil registration in tandem. National identification cards were used as a primary source of identification in voter registration for the 2019 elections, promising a more credible voter's roll than in previous elections. In addition, six ministries, departments and agencies are now utilising the NRIS for administrative systems to enhance capacities and improve service delivery.

The UN supported the Access to Justice programme, providing paralegal services and village mediation through formal and informal justice systems. This project improved access to justice for vulnerable groups, including women and children, and reduced the workload in formal justice institutions, increasing their effectiveness. Overall, the programme assisted over 30,000 vulnerable people who were in breach of the law. Out of this number, 3,472 were women and 2,412 were children.



Access to Justice assisted over **30,000** vulnerable people who were in breach of the law



Intake into public universities is now at **51%** male to **49%** female students



**15%** increase in beneficiaries of Ombudsman services

In order to promote access to comprehensive SRHR information, Malawi National Association of the Deaf (MANAD) and the Parents of Disabled Children Association of Malawi (PODCAM) reached 150 young people, 72 girls, boys 78 and 135 women with disabilities in five districts with UN support.

In an effort to support national institutions to advance gender equality and the status of women in Malawi, the UN supported various institutions to mainstream gender in their strategies. Four public universities were supported to develop gender policies and action plans. As a result, intake into public universities is now at 51% male to 49% female students, which also includes students with disabilities.

Concerning the elections, the UN focused on enhancing women's political participation by supporting over 48 female political aspirants and preparing them to campaign for office in the 2019 election. Furthermore, the Gender and Elections

Engagement Room (GEER) is now operational and can track and report incidences of violence against women in elections. The GEER provided evidence of discriminatory practices against female aspirants during political party primary elections. This discovery urged future programming to ensure a level playing field for all aspirants and candidates ahead of the 2019 election. The existence of a Memorandum of (MoU) between the GEER and Malawi Police Service facilitates the sharing of information between GEER monitors and the police for reporting and prosecuting criminal cases of violence against women.

The Malawi government has developed the first ever National Public Sector Management and National Public Sector Reform Policies which will fill a critical gap in the governance of the public sector reforms, aimed at improving accountability and service provision. Consequently, the 1993 Malawi Public Service Act has been reviewed and a Draft Bill to amend the Act has been

approved by cabinet and is awaiting Parliament's approval. Further improving accountability, the UN supported the introduction of a hospital ombudsman responsible for handling complaints in public hospitals. This has resulted in a 15% increase in beneficiaries of Ombudsman services.

To enhance service delivery by public institutions, the UN supported the review of Public Service policies, regulations, strategies and guidelines. The first ever Public Service Management and Public Sector Reforms policies were developed, approved and launched. Policies were translated into local languages, printed and disseminated to all controlling officers in the public service. Furthermore, the UN supported the development of new laws on New Public Service Commission's Architecture and Public Service Act and Regulations. These were approved by Cabinet and are awaiting Parliament's approval.



## Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- Gender interventions in the election project started late and were restricted by time constraints due to the commencement of the voter registration process. The Ministry of Gender's lack of harmonized data management systems further hindered the collection of disaggregated data to show the status of women in different aspects of life.
- The UNDAF 2019-2023 prioritizes decentralized delivery of services, investment in greater use of data for robust analytics for development planning, and engagement with intermediary service providers such as the private sector and NGOs to support the government in service provision.
- Institutional strengthening as a way of operationalising the Democratic Governance Sector strategy remained challenging with most of the Democratic Governance Institutions continuously experiencing high turnovers and thereby undermining capacity-building initiatives.
- Weak institutional capacity of government partners, incomplete decentralization processes, and inadequate data systems continued to hinder the pace of progress and change towards the sustainable management of natural resources and climate change.

## 2019 Emerging Priorities

- Supporting the Ministry of Gender to undertake a gender audit of all ministries in collaboration with the Department of Human Resources. The generated baseline data on the status of gender equality in public service would ensure evidence-informed decision making. The UN and the Ministry of Gender will also look into the development of a Joint Sector Strategic Plan to advance gender equality in the country over the next 5 years.
- The operationalization of the Access to Information Act and Gender Equality Act will be supported by the UN to ensure that the public is aware of the Acts and stakeholders have the tools for utilizing them.
- UN support will be provided to strengthen the handling of complaints, investigations and state party reporting to ensure that Malawi clears its backlog of human rights cases and reports.
- Formulating Joint Programmes in areas of Accountability, Human Rights, Financing, and Data for Management.
- UN support to ensure every child under 18 has their birth registered and obtains a legal identity through a UN joint proposal to fill the gap in children's registration, given that the rate of birth registration in Malawi is amongst the lowest on the continent, as well as globally.





### Albinism National Action Plan Launched

Malawi has launched a new national action plan to protect and promote rights of persons with albinism. The plan, to be implemented from 2018 to 2022, was launched at a joint event on 23rd June 2018, in Karonga District to also commemorate the International Albinism Awareness Day, which falls on 13th June.

Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, Dr. Jean Kalilani, said nobody in Malawi should face segregation or injustice because of their appearance, calling on all stakeholders to intensify the fight against violence against persons with albinism and promote their capabilities so that they equally participate in and benefit from the country's development.

"We have to show the world that Malawi is a country where people with all types of disabilities and specifically those with albinism are respected and have equal opportunities in life," she said, noting this would be in line with the 2018 theme for the day: Shining Our Light to the World.

On the new National Action Plan on Persons with Albinism in Malawi, Kalilani said the plan will guide comprehensive efforts to address challenges persons with albinism face in various areas such as education, health, empowerment, protection and human rights, calling for continued collaboration among stakeholders to ensure successful implementation of the plan.

## RESULTS OF OPERATING AS ONE

### Business Operation Strategy (BOS) Evaluation and Cost Benefit Analysis

A Business Operations Strategy (BOS) evaluation exercise and cost benefit analysis for its first cycle, spanning from 2014 to 2017, was done between February and March 2018. The evaluation found that the UN in Malawi saved 1.7 million dollars from harmonised business practices in 2017, with the majority of savings coming from joint procurement. The evaluation also found that there is potential for expanding cost savings in a second-generation BOS.

Malawi also became a pilot country for the cost benefit analysis and the BOS module of the UN INFO, which is a planning, monitoring and reporting system that tracks how the UN system at country level supports governments to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

### Joint Procurement

In February, the UN also initiated a Joint Procurement process for Long Term Agreements (LTAs) in order for security services to be engaged across the UN System in the country. The notice from the UN in Malawi looking to provide security services across the UN System resulted in nine

bids from interested service providers. In addition, the UN developed its first LTAs for hotel services, incorporating principles of sustainability and reducing the use of plastic bottles and waste. This agreement is in line with the decisions of the UNCT to aim for BOS that integrates principles of human rights, gender, and environmental sustainability.

### One UN House

In 2018, efforts on the One UN House progressed significantly. In June, the Public Private Partnership Commission (PPPC) in Malawi published the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the feasibility study for the One UN House. The study assessed the viability of constructing the One UN House in Malawi. The project is expected to save the UN System U\$1 million a year and will host 10 resident agencies, plus the World Bank, in a green and sustainable building. The construction of a One UN House in Malawi is in line with the UN Secretary General's target of 50% in common premises by 2021.

### Joint Resource Mobilisation Strategy

Together with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the UNCT in Malawi set out to implement the last Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Delivering as One

The evaluation found that the UN in Malawi saved 1.7 million dollars from harmonised business practices in 2017, with the majority of savings coming from joint procurement

with a Joint Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the UNDAF 2019-2023. The strategy ensures that the UN in Malawi moves from funding to financing and also leverages new financial flows in the next programming cycle, outlining innovative sources of financing and a new structure for the One Fund.

# RESULTS OF COMMUNICATING AS ONE

## Advocacy Priorities

For 2018, the UNCT agreed on four advocacy priorities, namely child marriage; adolescent education and health; women's participation; and refugees and migrants. This was aligned with the UNCT's annual work plan, focusing on leaving no-one behind, the elections and Malawi's population.

## Media Engagement

On the 18th of May, the UN Resident Coordinator visited three key media houses in Malawi to encourage conflict-sensitive journalism to help promote peace and democracy in the country in the lead-up to the Tripartite Elections in May 2019. In addition, the Resident Coordinator visited Times Group, Nation Publications and Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC). She further urged the media to ensure people with disabilities and women are not be left behind in the electoral process, saying that reaching them with election messages will enable their participation in the elections. The Resident Coordinator recognised that the media in Malawi is a key player in promoting accountability and transparency through its investigative journalism, which can expose misconducts such as corruption.

On the 29th of June, the UN in Malawi engaged

with media editors on the media's role in keeping the Malawi government on the track concerning the implementation and achievement of the SDGs. As the Malawi government committed to the 2030 Agenda, the media has a duty to the public interest in keeping the government accountable for its progress on achieving the SDGs. During the meeting, the editors indicated an interest in instituting a system of monitoring how each media outlet in Malawi is reporting on the SDGs. In addition, they welcomed the UN's invitation to assist them with information about SDG progress to improve the quality of their reporting.

The UNCT also engaged with senior media managers and editors in Blantyre on the UN's contributions to Malawi's development with the Resident Coordinator urging media houses to continue ensuring that various stakeholders, including political parties and election candidates, remain focused on key development issues in the country. The UNCT members presented pivotal issues and messages from the new UNDAF 2019-2023, aimed at supporting the Malawi government in achieving its national development aspirations as stipulated in the third MGDS, running from 2017 to 2022. National Editors' Forum Secretary General, Gracian Tukula, said media houses in Malawi will continue to actively promote development through actions such as raising awareness and

promoting accountability among stakeholders.

## Media Freedom and SDGs Media Awards

The UN supported the Media Institute of Southern Africa—Malawi Chapter (MISA Malawi) to commemorate the World Press Freedom Day on the 4th and 5th of May. The commemoration was done under the theme 'Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and the Rule of Law' in order to cast the spotlight on a free and independent media in promoting justice and the rule of law. Throughout the commemoration, stakeholders reflected on the state of freedom of expression including media freedom and access to information in Malawi, as the country gears up for the second Tripartite Elections in May 2019.

As part of the commemoration, the UN also introduced the Sustainable Development Goals Media Awards to encourage media reporting on the 2030 Agenda. The Resident Coordinator said the introduction of the SDGs Media Awards will recognise outstanding media work that contributes towards the achievement of SDGs in Malawi. The Resident Coordinator also encouraged the media to promote conflict-sensitive reporting so that it takes on conflict-prevention and peace-building roles during the electoral process.

SDGs Localisation—SDGs and national development strategy language translation

Between June and August 2018, the UN, in collaboration with the government of Malawi, translated the SDGs and their targets, as well as the Malawi government's National Development Strategy and the MGDS III, into three local languages: Chichewa (nationally spoken), Tumbuka (mainly spoken in the Northern Region) and Yao (mainly spoken in the Southern Region). Dissemination of the translated National Development Strategy and SDGs also started at district level, including the local government authorities and selected Area Development Committees. The translated SDGs and MGDS III supported the continuation of the Agenda 2030 localisation efforts in Malawi.

### **SDG Movie—Communicating SDGs differently**

Between August and December 2018, the UN

Communications Group (UNCG) produced an SDG Movie, which documents positive stories about Malawians who are undertaking efforts to improve their lives and achieve SDGs in the country. The movie was launched on UN Day, 24th October, during a high-level reception involving senior government officials and development partners, as well as private sector and NGO representatives. Wider dissemination of the SDG Movie was also initiated by using the movie as one of the tools of putting a human face to the SDGs in Malawi and therefore encouraging engagement and behavioural change communication at the local level.

### **SDG Radio Programmes for Community Radios**

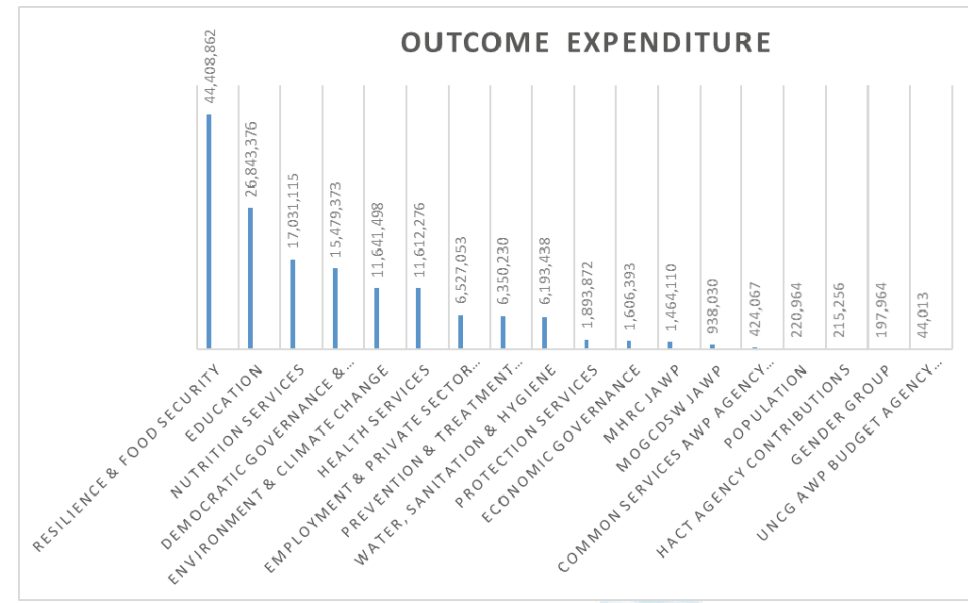
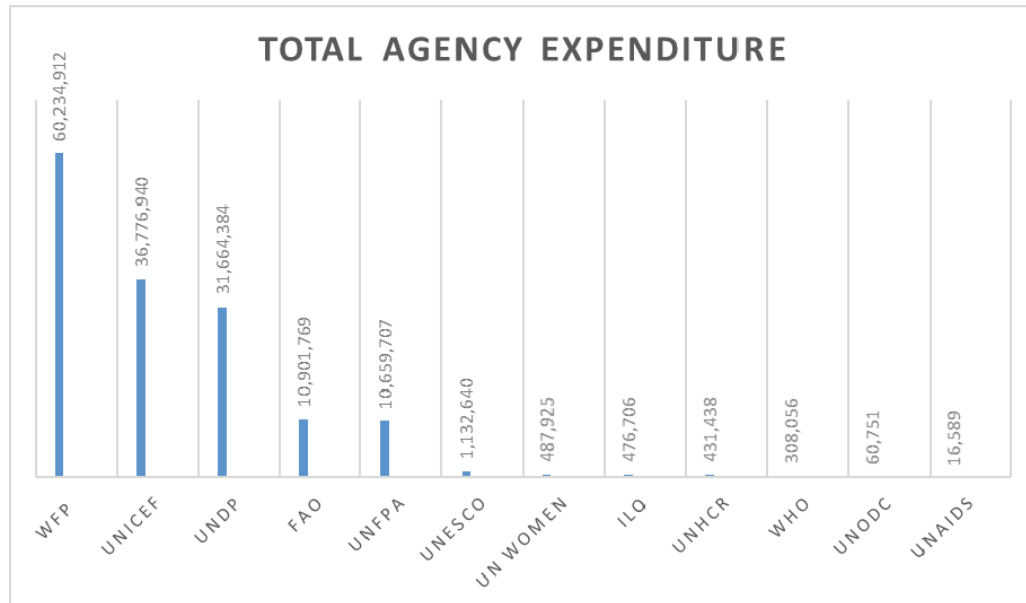
Between August and December 2018, the UNCG produced six SDG radio documentary programmes to support SDG awareness raising and mobilisation of local actions for the achievement of SDGs in

rural areas. The radio documentaries focused on gender; women empowerment; food and nutrition security; and early childhood development. Over 20 community radio stations across Malawi were targeted to broadcast the programmes.

### **Coordinated Approach to Community Radios**

Between February and April 2018, the UNCG mapped out all existing partnerships between individual UN Agencies and respective community radio stations in Malawi. The exercise aimed to identify all of the existing UN Agencies' engagements with community radio stations for better leveraging on SDGs awareness raising and coordination. The target was to streamline SDGs media coverage across the partnerships.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (USD)





## The United Nations in Malawi

The United Nations is an international organisation founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights. Since its inception, the membership of the Organization has grown to 193 States.

Due to its unique international character and the powers vested in its founding Charter, the Organization can take action on a wide range of issues. It provides a forum for its Member States to express their views through the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and other bodies and committees. The work of the United Nations reaches every corner of the globe.

In Malawi, the United Nations contributes to the government of Malawi's development objectives by supporting investment in Malawi's primary asset—her people—and strengthening the management and accountability systems that are needed to ensure growth benefits every citizen, including women, children, the very poor, and the most vulnerable.

The UN Country Team in Malawi, representing both resident and non-resident UN agencies, Funds and Programmes, ensures that the United Nations' collective human, technical and financial resources are deployed in the most effective and efficient manner under the leadership of the Malawi Government.

In Malawi, the United Nations is committed to enhancing the performance and impact of the UN system in contributing to the development of Malawi. Under the "Delivering As One" concept, the UN system seeks to further strengthen the management and coordination of UN activities in order to make an effective contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UN in Malawi is composed of 21 agencies, funds and programmes: UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UN Women, UNAIDS, WHO, UNESCO, ILO, UN-HABITAT, OCHA, UNIDO, UNV, UNODC, IAEA, UNCDF, UNEP, IFAD and UN Human Rights.





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